

Karol Krotki
1922-2007



Karol Krotki was born in Poland in 1922. When Germany and the Soviet Union invaded in 1939, he fled the country and enlisted in the British Army. He fought in North Africa and then joined the Royal Air Force where he served till the end of the war, receiving a number of decorations for bravery. Following the war, he earned a BA and MA, both in Economics, from Cambridge University. From 1949 to 1958 he held senior demographic positions in Sudan. In 1960, having obtained a PhD in Economics from Princeton University, he took on a central administrative role in the Institute of Economic Development in Pakistan. From there he moved to Ottawa in 1964 where he served in various senior scientific and bureaucratic roles in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1968, he headed west to join our Department of Sociology. Dr. Krotki was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1979 and, four years later, awarded the title of University Professor. He retired in 1991, but remained active as Professor Emeritus for many years.

Dr. Krotki was a larger than life figure, bringing his international experiences in the academy, government, and the military, and his fluency in several languages, into the classroom and department meetings. He loved to debate issues, and to remind colleagues of what he saw to be key points overlooked in their analyses. He was, at the same time, always incredibly respectful and courteous. Many of the graduate students Dr. Krotki mentored are today established professors in major universities or are employed in senior positions in important demographic institutes. He was a key figure in the creation of the Population Research Laboratory and the journal Canadian Studies in Population, and in the design of several demographic surveys that are still considered to be landmark studies. He also brought into being the *Society of Edmonton Demographers*, an organization that over the years has raised thousands of dollars in support of demographic research in the Sociology department.

University Professor Karol Krotki died on July 6, 2007, at age 85. His passing is a great loss to the department of Sociology, the Faculty of Arts, the University of Alberta, and the broader demographic community in Canada and internationally. He will be remembered as a scholar, a scientist, an intellectual, an innovative civil servant, and a great teacher.

The Department of Sociology has purchased the following books to be placed in the University of Alberta library in memory of Dr. Krotki:

Baumle, Amanda K. Ed. 2006. Demography in Transition: Emerging Trends in Population Studies. Cambridge Scholars Press.

Brian, Eric. 2007. Descent of Human Sex Ratio at Birth: A Dialogue between Mathematics, Biology, and Sociology. Springer.

Stanton, William. 2003. Rapid Growth of Human Populations: 1750-2000. Histories, Consequences, Issues, Nation by Nation. Multi-Science Publishing Co.

Wargon, Sylvia T. 2001. Demography in Canada in the Twentieth Century. University of British Columbia Press.